

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claims 6 and 17 are canceled. Support for the amendments may be found in the original claims and, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0037]. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action, on page 6, indicates that claims 13-18, 20, and 33-40 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, these claims are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability, but respectfully submit that at least claim 1, from which these claims depend, and other claims depending from claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons indicated below.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 19, and 21-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over WO 03/093387 (with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0159511 serving as an English-language counterpart) to Kramer ("Kramer"), in view of U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H2047 H to Harrison et al. ("Harrison"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*: "A two-component adhesive **K**, comprising: a component **K1** and a component **K2**, wherein: (a) component **K1** comprises ... at least one product **F** of a reaction between an epoxy adduct **B** and a compound **C** with at least two isocyanate groups; and ... (b) component **K2** comprises: at least one compound **E** with at least two isocyanate groups; ... compound **C** is a polyurethane prepolymer **C2** having isocyanate groups, which is

synthesized from at least one polyisocyanate **C1** and from at least one polyol, the isocyanate groups of **C1** are in stoichiometric excess relative to the hydroxyl groups of the polyol such that the resulting polyurethane prepolymer **C2**, after reaction of all the hydroxyl groups of the polyol, has a free isocyanate group content from 0.5 to 5 wt.% relative to the total polyurethane prepolymer **C2**, and the ratio of **K1** and **K2** is such that the OH/NCO ratio is $\geq 2:1$." The asserted combination of Kramer and Harrison would not have rendered obvious at least the above features of claim 1.

Contrary to the adhesive of claim 1, Kramer teaches only a one-component adhesive. *See* Kramer, paragraph [0058]. The Office Action asserts that "the additional isocyanate (applicant's K2) is evidenced by the ranges set forth by Harrison (column 13, lines 10-15) and by the desire to create an intricate polymer matrix as set forth by Harrison." *See* Office Action, page 4. However, the asserted combination still fails to teach the two-component adhesive according to claim 1, which requires "the ratio of **K1** and **K2** is such that the OH/NCO ratio is $\geq 2:1$."¹

Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that Kramer teaches "the reaction product of the epoxy adduct with isocyanate groups from a polyurethane prepolymer." *See* Office Action, page 3. However, Kramer, even in combination with Harrison, fails to teach "product **F** of a reaction between an epoxy adduct **B** and a compound **C** with at least two isocyanate groups," because claim 1 requires that "compound **C** is a polyurethane prepolymer **C2** having isocyanate groups, which is synthesized from at least one polyisocyanate **C1** and from at least one polyol, the isocyanate groups of **C1** are in stoichiometric excess relative to the hydroxyl groups of the polyol such that the resulting polyurethane prepolymer **C2**, after reaction of all the hydroxyl groups of the polyol, has a free isocyanate group content from 0.5 to 5 wt.%"

¹ This limitation was previously recited in allowable claim 17.

relative to the total polyurethane prepolymer C2." Both Kramer and Harris fail to teach this limitation.

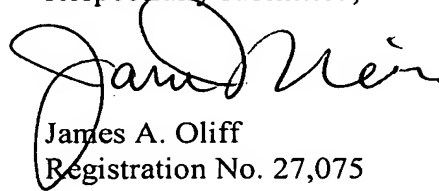
Accordingly, the asserted combination of applied references would not have rendered obvious the features of claim 1. Claims 2-12, 19, and 21-32 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by the asserted combination of references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

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